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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 978. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 43.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service is issued in behalf of labor, especially in the industrial fields. Hence, all publicity matter and such other bulletins dealt with will be the trade union movement.

Cowards have no luck.—Elizabeth Kulman.

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PHILADELPHIA UNION JABS SENATOR GRUNDY

Philadelphia, Jan. 4.—Senator Grundy was raked fore and aft by delegates to the Central Labor Union. He was portrayed as a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in his advocacy of a high tariff to "protect" labor while employing the cheapest labor possible in his textile mill at Bristol, this State.

Delegates voted their condemnation of Grundy "because of his unsavory labor record, despite newspaper eulogies."

William F. Kelly, vice president United Textile Workers, told the delegates of conditions in the Grundy mill.

"I saw in his employ only two kinds of labor—old women and young girls, mostly Italians, who are paid a mere pittance," said Kelly. "Grundy prates of a high protective tariff. Protection for whom? Not low-paid workers. And yet we hear that these workers are satisfied. Yes, because Grundy owns the town, and they must be."

The discussion revealed that for 20 years Grundy was the active head as president Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, opposed workmen's compensation, child labor legislation and every other remedial proposal urged by organized labor.

Grundy's contempt for the common people was shown at a Senate committee hearing in Washington when he declared that wealth should write the nation's tariff laws and that "backward States have no chips in the game."

EXCURSION STEAMERS ENDANGER MANY LIVES

Washington, Jan. 4.—Senator Wagner of New York has asked Secretary of Commerce Lamont that the Steamboat Inspection Service thoroughly test New York's excursion steamers before they are placed in service this year.

More than 50,000 persons patronize these vessels on a single warm Sunday in the spring or summer.

"The life belts constitute the major safety device in the event that the ship must be abandoned by reason of collision, fire or other misadventure," said Senator Wagner. "The passengers on these excursion vessels are preponderatingly women and children."

The excursion steamers are permitted to operate as death traps through the vessel inspection law of the then Secretary of Commerce Redfield which changed these boats from bay and sound vessels to river and harbor craft. The owners no longer worry about skilled labor and added life saving equipment, as these vessels are classed with ferries, lighters, tugboats, towboats and the hundreds of other little craft in the harbor. The change was made by extending the limits of the harbor. Politicians aided in the ship owners in urging the extension, which was opposed by Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union. He insisted it would be just as logical to extend New York Harbor up to Canada as to drag in into Connecticut. The union-ist's plea was ignored, and the deadly excursion steamers operate with men whose seamanship consists of a knowledge of how to polish a brass plate.

BIG CRIMINALS DODGE DRASTIC "LIFER" LAW

Ossining, N. Y. Jan. 4.—The Baumes law of this State—which means mandatory life sentence for fourth offenders—has failed to trap the big criminals, declared Warden Lewis E. Lawes, of Sing Sing prison, in an attack on this legislation that has sent 108 life-termers to Sing Sing.

The warden said he did not wish to be understood as sympathizing with any one convicted of crime. "It is my thought, however," he said, "that hasty, small laws alone are not effective preventive measures. They lend themselves to prosecuting attorneys bargaining with defendants and to juggling with indictments which, in effect, defeat the intent of the law and arouse a general feeling of disrespect for all authority."

Records of the 108 "lifers" show, according to the warden, that 20 profited nothing whatsoever from the crime; 17 secured less than $100 each; in one case the loot was $9.00 cents. In 21 cases the average loot was $250 for each case and in the balance of the cases the property was recovered.

The warden insists that an arbitrary life sentence in all of these cases is futile.

"There should be no fixed penalties for crime," he said. "The sentencing power, be it judge, jury or commission, should be able to change a sentence commensurate with the possibility of reform and rehabilitation."

LOS ANGELES UNIONS HELP SOUTHERN DRIVE

Los Angeles, Calif., Jan. 4.—The Central Labor Council unanimously approved a plan to give financial aid to the Southern trade union drive. Each member of organized labor in this city will donate 5 cents and one hour's pay during the month of January.

In a circular to affiliates urging prompt compliance with the resolution, Secretary Buzzell of the council said:

"Let us end 65 hours of labor for women and children at less than $10 a week in the only place it now exists in America."

Unions will contribute aside from the stated sums. Teamsters' Union No. 85 voted $500.

Southern Organizing Campaign Calls For Stout Heart

Support of labor's Southern organizing campaign should be a high resolve by every trade unionist.

The "news" feature of this movement will shortly be replaced by other first-page attractions, but this is no reason why workers should likewise lose interest in a cause that vitally affects them. The fight will continue, though it will no longer be considered "news" by the daily press.

Deep-seated wrongs are not righted by a few weeks' sensational publicity.

The power of privilege is a knowledge of the value of "long pulls"—steady, unyielding, persistent effort to undermine, disheartern and divide opponents.

The Southern campaign is a "long pull" fight. We are invincible and have ample resources for the work at hand if each one does his part.

Our opponents do not delude themselves. They are awake to their uncertain position if an intelligent public opinion is developed through the solidarity of labor.

This uncertain position is secure, however, if labor is easily discouraged, lacks vision and faith, and believes that unionization of the South is impossible.

Privilege, to hold and enlarge its power, reaches into every phase of our social and political life. It controls business men through bank credits, newspapers through advertising and would sway churches and fraternal organizations. Its spy system in the unions is well known.

No organization or institution is immune from these overlords, who would silence criticism and check rebuke.

Profiteers, thus entrenched, raise the cry "radical" whenever workers would improve living conditions or wrest control of their lives from those who hold, as Louis of France, "I am the State."

If trade unionists recall the forces against them, they are equipped for combat. The present contest differs only in degree from other battles won by labor, assisted by those who have been swept to their cause when the issue was understood.

Southern mill owners are not invincible. Their boasted power is but on the surface. Their lines can be broken by intelligence and determination.

In this campaign trade unionists will not be in a "hostile" country. They will be welcomed by thousands of Southern men and women whose proverbial warm-heartedness and sense of justice can be depended upon if we but prove worthy of our historic mission.

AUSTRIAN UNION POSTAL HEAD SEES BRIGHT SIDE OF AMERICA

Washington, Jan. 4.—"The American people are happier than we are, and class antagonisms are not as acute as in Europe," says Ludwig Maier, secretary Postal Telegraph and Telephone International, Vienna, Austria, in writing his impressions of America during his last-summer visit, when he attended various conventions of postal workers affiliated to the A. F. of L.

Secretary Maier forwarded a copy of his statement to Samuel F. Rotherty, secretary-treasurer National Federation of Post Office Clerks, who are affiliated to the International.

Mr. Maier was impressed by the "easy relationships" between administration (department chiefs) and the staff (employes) in the Post Office Department.

"I do not think there can be many European countries in which administration heads will take upon themselves the task of acting as spokesmen for important demands made by the staff," said Mr. Maier. "Yet I listened to a representative of the Postmaster General speaking in favor of the 44-hour week and in favor of a new post office policy which will end the hidden subsidies (to the press, railways, etc.) which at present falsely represent the post office as a non-paying concern.

"Particularly in the United States post office, but also in the country generally, class antagonisms are not so acute as in Europe. This may arise from the fact that historically of postal Europe like other modern institutions out of the feudal organizations of the Middle Ages, with its lords of the manor and the serfs, whereas America stands close to the area of her free pioneers, who knew no class division.

"I found the Americans as a whole to be a younger and less sophisticated nation than are Europeans. They have less of a world outlook, and are less burdened by philosophies and tradition than we are. They see things directly and squarely, and are less troubled by doubts and problems.

"American people is peace-loving nation. National hatreds are inherently foreign to them. Their practical good sense, their humanity and their unspoiled sentiment are the natural enemies of hatred and war."

Second-Hand Opinions Not Education

When all is said, the ignorance and folly of men are things that institutions cannot cure. Each must discover the path of wisdom for himself. One does not "get" an education anywhere. One becomes an educated person by virtue of patient study, quiet meditation, intellectual courage and a life devoted to the discovery and service of truth.—Everett Dean Martin, in "The Meaning of a Liberal Education."

INDIA IS SEETHING WITH SOCIAL UNREST

New York, Jan. 4.—Cables indicate that India is seething with social and political unrest and that this key to the British Empire is a problem for statesmen.

Outwardly the issue is "nationalism," urged by an element led by Mahatma Gandhi. Involved in the question, however, is a confusion of religious, fatalistic and caste groups and racial hatreds that are centuries old. The "untouchables," who comprise 60,000,000 of India's 380,000,000 population, are outcasts. They are not permitted to have any connection with the social, economic or political life of the country.

The All-India Nationalist Congress, representing one-third of the population, has adopted a program of political boycott, refusal to pay taxes and other forms of civil disobedience. This policy, urged by Gandhi, may result in wholesale arrests and nation-wide disturbances.

The All-India Nationalist Congress, which seeks dominion status, as is the case of Canada, Australia and the Irish Free State. The British Government has promised to send a commission to India during the year to report on what extent of self-government might safely, from the Empire point of view, be granted India. This report has not been made public and the Indian Congress declares for complete independence.

The British Labor government contemplates making a major issue of this as part of its conciliatory attitude favors a round-table conference, but has been rejected by Gandhi and his followers.

The National Liberal Federation, another element in India, favors Dominion status.

Gandhi, as leader of the extremists, will adopt his usual policy of non-resistance. Their method of fighting is folded arms, regardless of how they are opposed.

JAPAN NOT EXCITED OVER EXCLUSION LAW

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—"We in America are told how indignant Japan is over our exclusion law, but Japan sanctions our efforts to keep out their nationals," said Paul Scharrenberg, secretary California Federation of Labor, in his address to the Labor Council on the recent conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations which he attended at Kyoto, Japan.

The so-called Japanese exclusion law applies to all Orientals, but propaganda and sentimentalists would have the American people believe the law is aimed at Japan.

"The living conditions of Japanese workers and their families are most simple," said Mr. Scharrenberg. "Half of the population is agricultural, wedded to old traditions of production and enabling the worker to secure three meals a day, consisting of a bowl of rice, the monotony of the last year, favored a Dominion status, as is the case of Canada, Australia and the Irish Free State. The British Government has promised to send a commission to India during the year to report on what extent of self-government might safely, from the Empire point of view, be granted India. This report has not been made public and the Indian Congress declares for complete independence.

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PITTSBURGH FACULTY DENIES FREE SPEECH

Durham, N. C., Jan. 4.—Repression of free speech by the University of Pittsburgh was charged in a report to the American Association of University Professors to convene here.

The occasion of the inquiry was the wide publicity given last April to the abolition of the Liberal Club and the dismissal of L. W. Woltman, graduate assistant in philosophy, by university authorities. Charges against the club followed an attempt to hold Mooney-Billings meetings, which had been prohibited by the university.

The report said that the grounds for Woltman's dismissal had not been definitely stated, but the committee inferred that the action was taken because of his activities in writing and speaking against alleged violence of State and private police during recent coal strikes, and for making public the university's disapproval of his activities.

The dean of the university was represented by Woltman as asserting that "the chancellor of the university depends on wealth for finding the cathedral of learning and for running the university, and he cannot permit anything to happen which might antagonize those wealthy interests or individuals."

INDUSTRIES URGED TO CONTROL OUTPUT

Detroit, Jan. 4.—Industries should estimate their yearly consumption and this should be apportioned monthly, according to Alvan Macauley, president Packard Motor Car Company.

He disagrees with suggestions that manufacturers set aside funds to provide unemployment relief, but insists that much unemployment is due to unwise production methods.

"Too much ignorance underlies processes, automatic machinery and speed-up methods as a major cause for unemployment.

CLEANERS' STRIKE ENDS

Chicago, Jan. 4.—Organized cleaners, dyers and pressers have adjusted their long dispute with the Master Cleaners and Dyers' Association. The union's cleaning and dyeing plant will be disposed of and a model arbitration plan is agreed to. An impartial chairman will administer the agreement.

U. S. PENSION URGED TO RELIEVE DISTRESS

Washington, Jan. 4.—A federal old-age pension system was urged by speakers at a conference on old age dependency. Hon. Ethelbert Stewart, commissioner United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, presided.

Congressman Swing of California declared that "the future will turn upon the present machine age as the most brutal and cold-blooded in its treatment of aged."

"The Federal Government ought to be the leader in all humanitarian movements, instead of which it is a laggard," Mr. Swing said. The speaker asserted that a number of States have old-age pension laws, and that if it is not successful the time will come when them it should not be socialistic for the Federal Government to have such a law.

Senator Dill of Washington declared that an old-age pension law is "the most needed humanitarian legislation that can come before Congress."

"It is the tragedy of our civilization," he said, "that so many of our people find themselves in poverty at the end of their age of productivity. With all our wealth and productive power we should be able to establish a system that will properly care for people who find themselves in that condition."

RACKETEERING CITY UPHOLDS REPUTATION

Chicago, Jan. 4.—This city, considered the originator of modern racketeering, is upholding its reputation, according to a report by the United States Senate lobby committee.

One J. A. Arnold, it is shown, collected more than $1,000,000. He made nation-wide appeals for "anti-legislation" through three "paper" organizations of which he was the constitution, by-laws and official board.

Chicago business men and corporations led the sucker list of Arnold's "American Taxpayers' League." Contributions ranged from $100 to $1,500. Several of these "hard-boiled" business men were hooked the second time, and it is possible they might yet be writing checks if Senator did not come to their rescue by exposing the graft.

The committee reported that there was "no such thing" as an "American Taxpayers' League," except Arnold and his dupes.

UNION PLASTERERS HAVE FIVE-DAY WEEK

Duluth, Jan. 4.—The five-day week has been established by organized plasterers. This is the second union in Duluth that reports the short week. Painters and Decorators' Union was the first.

GANGSTERS KILLED IN UNION HOLD-UP

Chicago, Jan. 4.—A demand for "$10,000 or your life," made to M. J. Owens, secretary Tire Repairers and Rubber Workers' Union, affiliated to A. F. of L., caused the death of three racketeers.

Powers made an appointment with the thugs who appeared at the union's headquarters armed with sawed-off shotguns. When they snarled their demand for money and threatened to take him "for a ride," four detectives, who were secreted in the office, appeared and opened fire.

The gangsters were surprised, and like cornered rats squealed for "an even break." Their bodies were taken to the morgue. One of the officers was shot in the hand.

A coroner's jury branded the shooting of the three gangsters as justifiable homicide and police officials predict that the fatal ambush will check "shake-down" ventures in the labor union field.

This is the first time that this form of racketeering has ended disastrously to the hold-up men. They have become so bold that they threaten death to union officials if they refuse to resign. The gangsters then take control of the union, which is used to screen their hold-ups.

GARMENT UNION READY FOR SWEAT SHOP FIGHT

New York, Jan. 4.—"The sweat shop must go," is the battle cry of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Plans have been perfected for a general strike to drive sub-standard work conditions out of the dress trade. If these employers are not to accept the inevitable.

The unionists placed the cloak and garment industry on a working basis, and they and employers have set up an impartial commission to adjust differences. The employers agree not to patronize non-union shops. The dress industry, employing 40,000 women and children, remains the one black spot.

The union has conducted an organizing campaign preparatory to the final move that is indorsed by many employers and other public-spirited citizens.

MANY MARRIED WOMEN IN INDUSTRY; LOW WAGES OF HUSBAND IS REASON

Washington, Jan. 4.—Many married women are forced into industry by their husbands' low wages, declares the United States Women's Bureau, in Bulletin No. 75, just issued. In a study of the "Inadequacy of Men's Wages," the report states:

"The inability of a large number of men to earn sufficient to cover the cost of living for the family makes it necessary for their wives, women, in every State of the Union, to seek employment and to share with husband and father in the support of the family.

"Undoubtedly it is true that the degree of this need varies according to individual standards of living, based on the custom, experience or preference of individuals or the practices of a community. However, broadly speaking, the findings of authoritative studies of the food, shelter and clothing necessary for the support of a given size to meet a standard of living below which families in these United States should not be allowed to fall or to meet the lower standard below which no family can fall without deterioration.

"In certain lines of work it is impossible for men to earn even the sum required for the low standard, though employed full time and for the 52 weeks of the year. And few laborers or factory workers have employment the year round."

SLICK LOBBYIST GETS EASY MONEY; BLUFFS TIGHT-WAD BUSINESS MEN

Washington, Jan. 4.—The ease with which "paper" organizations, carrying high-sounding titles, can flich money from so-called "hard-headed business men," is shown in a report by Senator Caraway, chairman of the Senate Lobby Committee.

The report deals with the activities of T. A. Arnold, well-known lobbyist, who is declared to be "utterly without regard for veracity."

Arnold collected more than $1,000,000 through his Southern Tariff Association, his American Taxpayers' League for "wise revenue legislation" and his National Council of State Legislators for repeal of the Federal inheritance tax.

All of these organizations, the report said, were "aliases under which one J. A. Arnold operates, ostensibly to influence congressional legislation, but in fact for the purpose of making a living for himself and a small group associated with him."

After annual audits of the books, all evidence of Arnold's financial transactions were destroyed, only the auditor's report being preserved.

The report said there was "no such thing" as a Southern Tariff Association or an American Taxpayers' League, as neither had a constitution, by-laws or membership, except "contributors."

John H. Kirby of Houston, president of the tariff association, and noted anti-unionist, was classed by the report as the "come-on man" who contributed nothing, but whose name, the report states, "gave only a fictitious virtue and value" to the organization. Kirby is rated as worth $50,000,000.

ASKS SIX-HOUR DAY AS AID TO JOBLESS

New York, Jan. 4.—Organized plasterers in this city inform employers they will work six hours a day for two months to care for unemployed members.

The union, last August, won the 40-hour, five-day week and a 10 per cent wage increase. The plasterers' union has a record of violating their contract, but appeal to employers to aid them in relieving idle members, who total 40 per cent of the union's 10,000 membership.

The contractors ignore the humanitarian request. The fear of a six-hour day in the future looms before them.

Cry For Rigid Law Enforcement Is By Fanatic Who Has Pet Law

New York, Jan. 4.—If Nicholas Murray Butler were friendless, he would be deported. Possibly he would be "Exhibit A" at a lynching party, staged by 100 per centers."

But nothing will happen to Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler. He is president of Columbia University, a leader in educational institutions in this country.

In his annual report, just issued, he fears, cries and scoffs at the claim that all laws should be enforced.

"This cry," he said, "usually reflects merely the demand of the fanatic for the punishment of violators of some particular law in which he is interested."

Dr. Butler stamped as a "hallucination of false democracy" the theory that a majority has rights and that by the voice of the majority matters of principle are finally determined.

"This is utter nonsense," he declared. "No majority has any rights whatever. The individual has rights and a majority has privileges. It has the privilege of determining who shall be chosen to serve it in public place, and it has the privilege of determining what policy or course of conduct shall next be entered upon, but it has not and never has absolutely nothing to do with the determination of true or false, right or wrong, moral or immoral, institutions in this country.

"If law enforcement meant the enforcement of all law, then the social order, at least in the United States, would quickly be afflicted with paralysis, partly because of the absurdity of many of these laws and partly because of their open conflicts with each other.

"There is no ground whatever for the conventional statement that violation of any law, or disrespect for it, leads to the disregard of all law. The contrary is the case."

Dr. Butler repeated a former statement that everything which comes clothed in the garb of law is not really law.

$1,316 ANNUAL WAGE IS WEAK FOUNDATION

Minneapolis, Jan. 4.—The secretary of a local business organization is jubilant over statistics which show that industry in this city, during 1929, produced goods to the value of $500,000,000 and employed workers with a pay roll of $50,000,000.

"Minneapolis is building on a firm foundation," says the secretary.

This view is not accepted by Editor Cramer of the Minneapolis Labor Review. "This report appears to be a weak foundation," says the labor editor. "With 38,000 people working for $50,000,000 means that the average yearly wage was approximately $1,316.

"The United States Government finds that $2,308 a year is necessary to support a family of five in health and decency. So that every worker employed in Minneapolis factories received for the year $992 less than the necessary sum to support their families in health and decency.

"It is probable that conditions are even worse than these figures disclose, for high-salaried officials and executives are included in the pay roll.

"Local industries will only be on a sound foundation when workers in these industries are organized and obtain a living wage.

"It is folly to cover up this dangerous situation."

RAILROAD WAGE SCALE BELOW 1920 RECORD

New York, Jan. 4.—Wages for railroad workers are yet below the 1920 standards, despite recent increases, according to a Wall Street financial writer. Present rates are about 1 per cent lower than the 1920 scales, it is stated.

"Wages were reduced in 1921 and 1922 and approximately $2,852,000,000, or about $850,000 less than in 1920," the writer states.

This estimate does not consider improved processes that means greater production with fewer employes.

HOLDING COMPANIES UNDER SENATE FIRE

Washington, Jan. 4.—A searching probe of holding companies and investment trusts organized to handle railroad securities is demanded by Mr. Couzens, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce.

These companies do not operate railroads, but merely handle their securities, and are therefore beyond control of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Ownership of stock, however, is sufficient to dictate a railroad's policy.

Profits Division Is Co-Op. Base; Senator Explains Rochdale Plan

Washington, Jan. 4.—"The 'trade dividend' (division of profits) rather than cutting prices and depending on assessments to recoup losses, is the sound co-operative basis," said Senator Capper in addressing the 28 flannel weavers who Charles Howarth, who originated the principle of the trade dividend. He said: "We will sell our goods at the usual and ordinary profit, and if we have profits left over, after keeping 2½ per cent of net earnings in the business, to expand and absorb losses, we will distribute the other 7½ per cent of the net earnings among the members in proportion to the amount of business they have done with the enterprise. That is the trade dividend.

"These three brief principles are the foundation of this business. They are so eloquent, so powerful, so far-reaching, if private business would subscribe to these principles for its regulation I would be ready to repeal every anti-trust law, because these principles would prevent the evil which is called monopoly."

NEGRO LABOR'S MEET ENDORSED BY GREEN

Washington, Jan. 4.—"No group or race can win permanent gain by taking unfair advantage, by exploitation or under-cutting standards," said Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L. indorsing the national Negro labor conference that will be held in Chicago, this month. The conference will be sponsored by the Sleeping Car Porters' Union, chartered by A. F. of L.

Writing as editor American Federationist, current issue, Mr. Green said:

"This splendid organization of Negro workers recognizes that the fundamental problem of Negroes, as of all other workers, is industrial and that the first attack on this problem of organization has been membership in the Negro Labor Council.

"Organization is the way to status in industry, higher wages, just and honest working conditions, shorter hours of labor. These are essential to higher social and political standing.

"Trade unionism offers membership to all Negroes. The majority of trade unions accept Negroes as members, have chartered by A. F. of L. opposed the rules of the A. F. of L. provide that Negro workers may apply for charters direct from the A. F. of L.

All phases of the lives of Negro workers will be discussed at the conference. Many of the speakers will be Negroes who have achieved distinction in their work.

"The conference is an opportunity to promote better understandings between all who work, and that co-operation will serve the best interests of all. Through organization the Negro can raise his standards and the A. F. of L. is ready to help."

FASCISTS WHITEWASHED; MAY OPERATE SECRETLY

Washington, Jan. 4.—Secretary of State Stimson has given a clean bill of health to Mussolini, as far as Fascist activities in this country are concerned.

An investigation was undertaken by his department, following publication of an article in the Nation Magazine in which subversive activities of the Fascist League of North America were charged. Mr. Stimson satisfactorily he had not read the report of his subordinates, but "assumed" they covered all the charges made in the magazine.

The Fascist League of North America recently announced that it has dissolved, and the Secretary of State approved this action "in the interest of better relations between this country and Italy."

Senator Heflin has introduced a resolution in the Senate calling on the State Department to investigate charges made by Harper's Magazine! No action has been taken by the Senate.

With the Fascist League dissolved, Mussolini agents in this country will probably operate more stealthily through consuls and other representatives of Italy.

TEACHERS ORGANIZE

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 4.—Teachers in this city organized and are chartered by the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated to A. F. of L.